

Bryce Canyon National Park: One minute wonder

All you need to know about the world's most remarkable places in 60 seconds. This week: Bryce Canyon National Park.

By Tim Jepson

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Where is it? In the south-west corner of Utah, just north of the Grand Canyon and close to the Nevada border and Las Vegas.

Why is it special? This is one of the smallest but most spectacular national parks in the US, celebrated for its series of vast hoodoos (spires, fins and windows of eroded and beautifully coloured rock), mountains up to 9,000ft high and vast stone amphitheatres (not, despite the park's name, canyons).



The park's mountain lions are the world's most successful predators

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What can I do? Take superb hikes in the canyons and the maze of hoodoos, and admire the abundant wildlife in the upland meadows and fir-spruce forests. The area also has some of the world's cleanest air, offering views of three states and visibility of up to 200 miles. Combined with the lack of artificial light, this also makes the park perfect for stargazing.

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Did you know? The park's mountain lions are the world's most successful predators, securing a kill 80 per cent of the time.

Take me there? Fly to Las Vegas with Virgin Atlantic (0870 380 2007; www.virgin-atlantic.com) (<http://www.virgin-atlantic.com>) and hire a car: the park is 180 miles to the north-east, off Hwy 12. Book well ahead to secure a room at the Bryce Canyon Lodge (001 435 834 8700; www.brycecanyonlodge.com) (<http://www.brycecanyonlodge.com>) ; doubles from £89), the only in-park accommodation.

What about a package? Titan HiTours (0800 988 5823; www.titanhitours.co.uk) (<http://www.titanhitours.co.uk>)) offers an escorted 17-day coach "Awe-Inspiring National Parks" tour. The next departure is July 23; from £2,225 per person.

Tell me more? Visit the official park website www.nps.gov/brca (<http://www.nps.gov/brca>)

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